



# News Release

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## **FORMER NASA EMPLOYEE SENTENCED TO 41 MONTHS IN PRISON**

On June 28, 2000, Douglas John Willowby, a former NASA employee of the Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL, was sentenced to 41 months confinement after pleading guilty in U.S. District Court, Birmingham, Alabama, to two counts of possession of child pornography. In addition, he must serve 3 years probation following his release and pay a \$200 special assessment fee. Willowby was immediately taken into custody by United States Marshals Service.

The investigation disclosed that Willowby downloaded and saved several hundred images of child pornography to his personal computer. He then transferred the images to a NASA-owned computer and computer disks while at his NASA office.

This investigation was conducted by Special Agents of the NASA Office of Inspector General, Office of Criminal Investigations and Computer Crimes Division, the Alabama Bureau of Investigation, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney James E. Phillips, Northern District of Alabama.